VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA February, 2017

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:00 PM See map on last page.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeater
WV6F 440.025(+) pl 127.3

2017 Officers

President: Frank Garay KJ6RWQ
VP:Doug Hollowell KJ6VHE
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt-K6HEW
Secretary: Brian Hagen-KK6BXP
Board of Directors:
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Arthur Miller KI6UXE
Kevin Stow N6VLF
Bob Hawkins KM6BXZ
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VVRC Net Control Chairperson
Club Activities Chairperson-Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Newsletter Editor-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message----------2
VVRC Meeting Notes---------- ----------3
A Fox Hunt----------4 & 5
A Simple Field Strength Meter---------- 5
A Simple Passive Attenuator----------6
Ham Radio Class March 4th, 2017----------7
New CubeSats----------7
Ham Radio Class March 4th, 2017----------7
Restoring Old Radios----------8
Special Call Sign Prefixes Available---------- 8
LOTW to No Contacts by TQSL---------- 8
Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badge----------9
NASA Wire Splices---------- -9
FCC Dismisses Two Petitions----------10
The Amateur Radio Parity Act----------10
Little Bit of History----------11
A New Salesman----------11
QSLs & Old Ham Stations----------12
Merriment on M ain Certificate----------13
VP6TC/VR6TC SK----------14
Special Event Station Zane Grey----------14
VVRC Online Renewal----------15

President's Message

Well from what I'm told we had a great "first meeting" of the year! I of course was in Hawaii conducting a detailed survey of the area in hopes of finding another potential location for our annual Field Day event. I'm sorry to say I didn't find anything suitable so I guess I'll have to keep going there and looking. Oh well, someone has to do it right? Anyway…..

Just a couple things for me this month. I'd really like to encourage everyone to try and make the weekly net. Our membership continues to grow and we're getting lots of participation, but I'd love to see more. Even if you have someone check in for you if you're out of town or you can't make it for some reason that would be great. This isn't to say that the weekly net isn't doing well at all, in fact quite the opposite! The weekly net's have been awesome and so have the "net plus" net's as well. Speaking of our "net plus", I've been getting great feedback on them, so we will keep doing them going forward. They help us practice using other bands and modes which is great whether we're seasoned operators or new, and we're hoping they also encourage our tech's out there to work at upgrading so they can participate on the HF bands which is a total blast.

Now with upgrading your ticket in mind, please be aware that the Benicia Amateur Radio Club is holding a one day crash course testing session on March 4th and their curriculum has expanded to include the General Class. So this means all our tech's can go there and do the one day class and hopefully walk out of there as a General! They are very excited about their new method in conducting these classes as they are a little different than most crash courses and they feel you'll get a lot more out of the experience. The fee, which includes all study material and the FCC exam fee is only $30, so again to all of our tech's - GO FOR IT! I remember when I got my General and it was such a great feeling. My wife of course wasn't so thrilled because it meant that a couple of new antenna's went on the roof, but hey… she got over it! You have to register for this exam in advance so please visit their site at http://beniciaarc.com to learn more and register. When you get to the site you'll see "One-Day Ham Radio Class" in the upper left corner. Click it and register and get that upgraded ticket! You'll love it!

How about that N6VLF (Kevin) and his "Fox Hunt" presentation! The word is that everyone is interested and excited about getting a Fox Hunt event going and working on building some new gear. So please be sure to watch your email and come to the meetings to further participate in this very cool, educational and totally fun activity. Remember, it's all about community participation, education and FUN this year and it looks like we are on track right out of the gate! Thanks Kevin - You Rock! We're so lucky to have so many big brains in our club guys, so please be sure to make the meetings and take advantage of them. There is so much help and education at our finger tips in this club it's ridiculous.

That's it for me for now, so you all have an awesome month and we'll see ya on the weekly net's, at the next meeting and in the next newsletter!

73 Frank Garay

A Leap Second

A leap second was inserted into world clocks at the very end of the 2016, at 6:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Imagine the reflector discussions we could have had about contacts completed in the extra second if this had coincided with the end of a major contest.

New NAQP Contes Log Software

Scott, N3FJP, announces that his NAQP Contest Log 4.4 software is now available, including the new DC (District of Columbia) multiplier for NAQP. Other changes include enhanced playback/recording support, as well as support for FlexRadio gear through the FlexRadio API. Many of his other logging programs have also been recently updated; see the N3FJP website for more information. This is Scott's 20th year of writing and supporting his logging software - congratulations!

VVRC Jan 17 Meeting Notes

Welcome 2017 and to the VVRC. Our Vice President, Doug, KJ6VHE took the reins at our first meeting of the year. While Frank, KJ6RWQ had the pre-election commitment to a vacation. Frank will be in the President's chair for the February meeting. Frank did leave a short video outlining the 2017 year. See his segment in the January 2017 VVRC newsletter for more details.

We had three visitors at our January meeting. Jon Heit, KA0H; Corey Benjamin, KM6GWO; and Brian Centeno, KJ6ERI. All three guests were invited by club members. Corey recently took and passed his test after suggested by Brian, KK6BXP.

Brian, KJ6ERI was motivated by Kevin, N6VLF. Our planned staple events for 2017 include Field Day, Merriment on Main, the Farmers Market, plus the Summer and Christmas Dinners. We will be adding to the mix this year to increase the VVRCs exposure in our community and collaborating with YARS supported public events.

Bob, KM6BXZ, discussed the VVRC calendar & also YARS / Sac Valley ARES events outlining known events that the VVRC can take part in. Along with ARRL events, and other ham related organizations, there will be many options for things to do within the VVRC. With this being said, if there is an event that interests you, speak up, but remember this, you will most likely also be the lead person on handling the event.

Bob also spent some time in front of the computer and has put together a new brochure, thank you cards for guest check-ins from Tuesday night nets, and congratulation cards for new hams in the area. This is all in an effort to help create exposure for the VVRC.

A round of thanks to our 2016 President, Marcus, KI6WDX and a special thanks to Tom, KE6MDM, in getting us into the Nut Tree Airport facility.

Treasurer, Bob, K6HEW has added the ability to our website to do renewals online by credit card or PayPal. Bob also covered Merriment on Main's after action report. The summation is to make sure there are no open carriers. (search youtube "The Naked Gun Queen Elizabeth Press Conference" for a humorous reference)

Time controls are to be applied at the meetings, 7PM start with 8:30PM being the end time. Remember to have fun, keep learning and be supportive in the community (helping hams). That being said, please keep the negativity off the repeater and out of the club. The key word is FUN!

Jason, KM6FAK, is handling the social media portion of our club on Facebook with the Mt. Vaca W6VVR page. Make sure you sign-up and see what your fellow hams are making and doing. The second item that Jason, and a few others within VVRC are looking into, is to see about group buys on SWAG items, like hats, shirts, etc. These items will not be covered by the radio club directly, but as a group buy we can save money by putting in a larger purchase. This one time purchase will save money through quantity. You should have received an email with a link for the swag survey of options or to opt out of the group buy. If you are having technical issues, you will have the ability to do the survey at the February meeting.

Lastly, Kevin, N6VLF discussed making inexpensive gear and modifications to existing equipment in order to make fox hunting tools. The plan is to have February, March & maybe April as our build months to make the equipment. Then April / May would be the actual fox hunt. (I do suggest you research through youtube to get an idea of what it is about; if you do not already and missed the meeting)

2017 looks to be a great year for the VVRC and I look forward to doing stuff when I can with you. 73 see you next month and hope to hear you on the repeater.

Brian.
KK6BXP

A Fox Hunt

If you were at the last VVRC meeting, you would have gotten an excellent overall presentation by Kevin N6VLF.

Kevin N6VLF

Since I'm a bit hard of hearing and couldn't hear all that Kevin was saying,, I did some research on Foxhunting.

The following is some of the results of my searches.

What is the object of object of Foxhunting?

The object is to find a hidden transmitter either the in quickest time or in some cases with the lowest mileage.

Location

Hunts usually start at a designated location at a certain time. The fox usually is hidden somewhere in the local area.

Equipment:

The signal you're trying to find could be very weak or very strong. For hunts you should have a directional antenna such as a 3-element beam or a 2-element quad.

Take a bearing on the fox from your location; check the map for a likely hiding spot, and you're off. Some people just drive around heading in that first general direction, while others will drive off to the side to get another bearing. They will then plot the two bearings on a map, and drive to the intersection of them. They will not be at the foxes hiding place, but should be close. Keep taking beam headings and narrow your search. When you get close to the fox, your directional antenna will not do you any good, as the signal will be too strong, and it will pin the S-meter at any heading.

Kevin demonstrates how to determine bearing of the "Fox"

Then it's time to attenuate the receive signal using some form of signal attenuation.

Foxes & Frequencies:

Foxhunts are usually done on the 2M or 80M bands. The national foxhunt frequency is 146.565 Mhz, but the frequency can be different.

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Foxhunting methods:

As mentioned earlier, foxhunting does require some special equipment. You can buy it, or build it if you are capable and most of it is not that expensive to build. A 3-element tape measure beam and an HT is a good place to begin. A tape measure beam is usually made from PVC pipe and sections of an old 1" wide tape measure.

Radio in can or tube:

When you get close to the Fox, place your HT in a deep metal can or a mailing tube covered with tin foil. The only way a signal can enter your radio now is from the open end of the tube or can. Aiming for the best (quietest) signal should point in the direction of the fox. The deeper the radio is shielded down in a tube, etc., the sharper your detection should be. Removing the antenna from the radio will decrease its sensitivity even more.

Then connect your directional antenna to an offset attenuator, connect the attenuator to your radio, and go-get-um! Start with minimum attenuation. As you get closer to the fox, the S-meter or bar graph will stay pinned. Simply reduce the signal with another less sensitive or if you have an attenuator control lower the sensitivity until the received signal is within the limits of your detector (S-meter).

OK, that's some of the items I came up with. There is a lot more on the WEB, some simple items to build and some more technical.

So far I've built the tree-element yagi and am planning to gather the parts for the simple field strength meter in the following article.

The club is gearing up to schedule a hunt in the near future so I plan to be ready and learn.

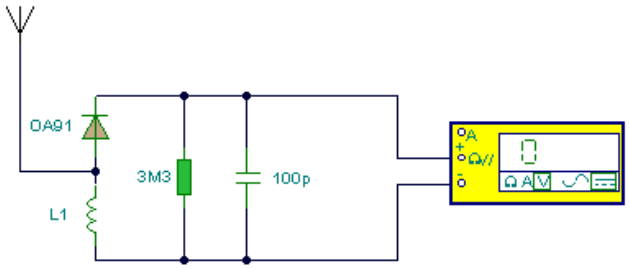
If I heard right, Kevin is planning on presenting more info at the next meeting.

You won't want to miss it. The meeting is at the Nut Tree Airport on Feb 8 and starts at 0700.

Jerry, KJ6SCC

A Simple Field Strength Meter

This Field Strength Meter is simple and also quite sensitive. It uses an ordinary portable digital voltmeter to measure RF signal strength up to a few hundred



Parts List
1 OA91 Germanium Diode
1 3.3M Resistor
1 100p Capacitor
L1 7 turns on a 1/4 inch former (suitable for around 100MHz)

Notes

The multimeter should be set to the lowest dc volts range for maximum sensitivity. This is normally 200mV DC for most meters.

The circuit works well at VHF (around 100MHz) and was quite pleased with the results. L1 was 7 turns on a quarter inch former with ferrite slug. This covered the UK FM band.

A digital multimeter, as opposed to an analogue signal meter offers several advantages in this circuit.

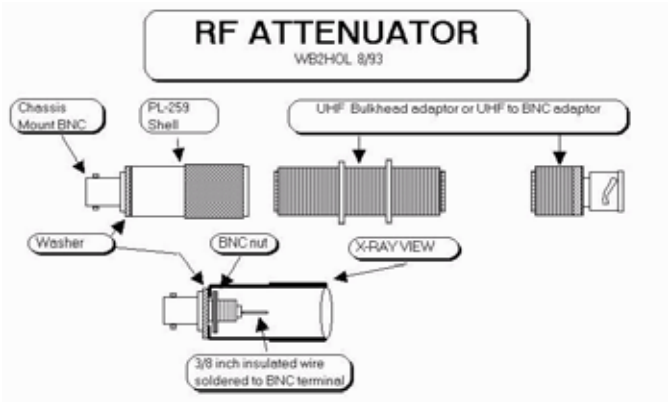
First- the impedance of a digital meter is very high, around 10Meg/Volt on most meters. This does not shunt the tank circuit unduly.

Second- compared to an analogue meter, very slight differences in signal strength can be more easily observed.

Third-a digital meter will have better linearity, responding well to both weak and stronger signals.

Simple Passive Attenuator

This adjustable passive attenuator works as a "waveguide beyond cutoff." It can be constructed in about ten minutes from parts available locally.



This attenuator was the result of a search for an inexpensive attenuator that could be used on an HT to help beginners equip themselves for a hidden transmitter hunt. The 3/8-inch piece of wire will extend into the center conductor of the bulkhead adaptor forming a small capacitor. The coupling between the two conductors will vary as the PL-259 shell is turned further onto the bulkhead adaptor.

The maximum attenuation available depends upon the length of the wire soldered to the chassis mount BNC connector. A service monitor measured a loss of up to 36 dB. With the cost so low and construction so simple, many hams have made several with different length wires.

Although 36 dB may sound like a lot of attenuation it will not be sufficient when on most transmitter hunts. This passive attenuator project is aimed at the beginner who is armed with only an HT and is attempting to use the "body-fade" method of Radio Direction Finding. The passive attenuator can be put in-line with the existing rubber-duck antenna and adjusted so the signal no longer is full scale on the S-meter.

Tuning off frequency by 5 or 10 kc, listening for the third harmonic, using a foil wrapped tube as an RF shield around the HT, or even wrapping aluminum foil directly around the HT are all methods which will help to some degree. One or more of these techniques will reduce the signal to where a "S" meter reading peak (or null) gives you a clue to the direction where the transmitter might be found. (If you do wrap aluminum foil around your HT, put some tape over any exposed battery charging contacts. Otherwise, the foil may get a bit warm as it rapidly discharges the battery)When closer to the fox, more signal will enter the HT through the case than through the antenna. At this point, other methods must be used to locate the fox transmitter. The most effective attenuator in most cases is an "active attenuator." They can offer over 100 dB of attenuation. Plans for one are available here.

Construction Details

Looking in at insulated wire I soldered the wire to the BNC before mounting it in the PL-259 shell. I used a length of wire clipped from a 2 watt resistor. (Use any stiff wire) I then forced a small length of insulation stripped from another piece of wire onto it. By using this method, the insulation does not melt during assembly.

I used a "star" washer. It was just the right size. The washer prevents the BNC connector from falling through the PL-259 shell. The hardest part of the construction is tightening the nut on the BNC connector. I usually wedge a screwdriver in the shell to hold the nut and tighten the BNC from the outside.

Joe Leggio WB2HOL

Ham Radio Class March 4th, 2017

Once again the Benicia Amateur Radio Club and its volunteers will be conducting another One-Day Ham Radio Class. This class is intended for those wishing to get a Tech Ham license, or for existing Techs wishing to upgrade to General.

Conducted multiple times throughout the year, this class has been very well received by the greater Northern California community. We have helped Hams from Shasta to Santa Cruz , the San Joaquin Valley , and from the Peninsula to the Sierra Foothills.

Many of us know people that we'd love to see get into our exciting hobby but have faced opposition because they didn't have time to study. As we know, many people typically require one to two months to prepare to pass their test.

We have the answer. Earn a license or upgrade in One Day!

Historically over 90% of attendees pass the on-site FCC licensing exam. Our exams are administered by federally accredited Volunteer Examiners (VE's) immediately at the conclusion of the class. Our proven class pass rate easily exceeds home study results.

How your Club benefits

We have generated a large number of very active Hams who have brought additional participation, dimension and interest to their local clubs and their CERT Teams. We're seeing our successful attendees now volunteering for On-The-Air activities, Drills, Nets & Public Service Events, and accepting leadership roles on club boards and committees.

Expand the success of your Club and its Public Service Capabilities

Please Share this email with your club members, friends, family, co-workers and local CERT Teams

We invite all persons interested in obtaining a Ham license - or Techs wishing to upgrade - to enroll in this One-Day class. We have over 30 Facilitators and Accredited VE's to help deliver this successful class.

One-Day Ham Radio Class

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When: March 4, 2017, 7:30AM-5:00 PM

Where: Benicia Senior Center , 187 East "L" Street, Benicia , CA 94510

Cost: $30. Includes all study material, venue, day-long refreshments, handouts, freebies and the federally required exam fee. All instructors, facilitators and VE's are volunteers.

Access: Our facility has full handicap access.

Info/Signup: Online at www.BeniciaARC.com . Class size is limited, register promptly.

Questions: hamradioclass@beniciaarc.com or Ham Class Registrar, Art Mayoff, (925) 212-9953

Class Flyer link and attached.

AB4AL- Bob

Several CubeSats with Amateur Radio Payloads Deployed from ISS

Space Bulletin 003 ARLS003From ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT January 18, 2017To all radio amateursSB SPACE ARL ARLS003ARLS003 Several CubeSats with Amateur Radio Payloads Deployed fromISSSeveral CubeSats carrying Amateur Radio payloads were placed intoorbit on January 16 from the International Space Station (ISS).

SixCubeSats delivered to the ISS in December were deployed from the Kibo airlock using the new JEM Small Satellite Orbital Deployer (J-SSOD). Information on J-SSOD can be found on the web at,http://iss.jaxa.jp/en/kiboexp/jssod/ .

Satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads included ITF-2,Waseda-Sat-3, AOBA-Velox-3, and TuPOD (including Tancredo-1).University of Tsukuba designed and built ITF-2, with a downlink of 437.525 MHz. Waseda-Sat-3, a project of Waseda University, downlinks CW and FM telemetry on 437.29 MHz. AOBA-Velox-3 downlinks GMSKtelemetry on 437.225 MHz. Tancredo-1, a Brazil middle school project, will transmit AFSK on 437.200 MHz.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has posted a video on the launches and related activities. Further information can befound on the JAXA website at, http://global.jaxa.jp/ .NNNN/EX

THE BIT BUCKET

Restoring Old Radios

"Restoring Old Radios" is the topic of the latest (December 29) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn! Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone — whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, *QST* Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on Apple iTunes, or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at Blubrry, or at Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our beginner's guide.

CANADA 150

Special Call Sign Prefixes Available to Celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has secured permission for all Canadian radio amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation during 2017.

Starting on January 1, radio amateurs and clubs with VA-prefix call signs may use CF instead, and those with VE-prefix call signs may use CG instead. Amateurs

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and clubs with VO-prefix call signs may substitute CH instead, while those holding VY-prefix call signs may substitute CI.

Use of the special prefixes is optional, and Canadian radio amateurs may choose if and when to use the special prefix at any time during the year. VY1AAA, the Yukon Canam Contest Club, will mark the sesquicentennial with special call sign XK150YUKON from January 1 until March 1. For the rest of 2017, VY1AAA will operate using either CI1AAA or VY1AAA.

Logbook of The World to No Longer Accept Contacts Signed by *TQSL* Versions Earlier Than 2.0:

As of 1400 UTC on January 16, ARRL Logbook of The World (LoTW) no longer will accept contacts that have been digitally signed by versions of *TQSL* earlier than version 2.0. Users of earlier versions are encouraged to upgrade as soon as possible, as older *TQSL* versions contain uncorrected defects and display inaccurate error messages. The current versions of *TQSL* for Windows, OS X, and Linux are available online at https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/installation/.

This action does *not* affect data already uploaded to LoTW; all QSOs remain in the LoTW database in perpetuity.

— Thanks to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry , KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Marcus , KI6WDX
3rd week of month-Chris , KD7TQO
4th week of month-Brian , KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Hewitt, K6HEW

Boy Scouts' Radio Merit Badge to Include Amateur RDF

Boy Scouts' Radio Merit Badge Requirements to Include Amateur Radio Direction Finding Option

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have updated the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge for 2017, although a formal announcement is pending the publication of the 2017 Boy Scouts Requirements pamphlet. A new option for the Radio Merit Badge is Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said he's "really excited" about the move, and he credited Jamboree on the Air Coordinator (JOTA) and K2BSA trustee Jim Wilson, K5ND, with being the "spark plug" behind the ARDF addition.

"Jim visited a training session at the USA ARDF Championships in Texas last April and realized what an excellent activity that on-foot hidden transmitter hunting can be for Scouts," Moell recounted. "Working with Brian Coleman, KB0MAP, Jim authored the new ARDF Radio Merit Badge syllabus, which was then reviewed by several leaders of US ARDF community."

A first draft of the new merit badge pamphlet is anticipated later this month or in early February. Moell said the new merit badge requirements should become effective just in time for the July 2017 National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, where an ARDF course and equipment will be available to Scouts of all ages. He also hopes there could be a role for ARDF in JOTA.

The Radio Merit Badge ARDF option combines orienteering and foxhunting, and opens a new interactive component to this program. Other new Radio Merit Badge options include cellular telephones and different types of radio modulation.

Key requirements being dropped from the Radio Merit Badge include open, closed, and short circuits, as well as schematic symbols and components, because these are covered in the Electricity and Electronics Merit Badges.

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The BSA also made some minor editorial changes and reordered requirements for the Amateur Radio option. The radio broadcasting option now includes internet streaming, regulations, and power levels. A medium-wave and shortwave listening option includes both types of listening, as well as listening via streaming services on a smartphone.

The BSA has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). Scouts are encouraged to follow the new requirements, although the guidelines may allow use of the previous requirements in some cases.

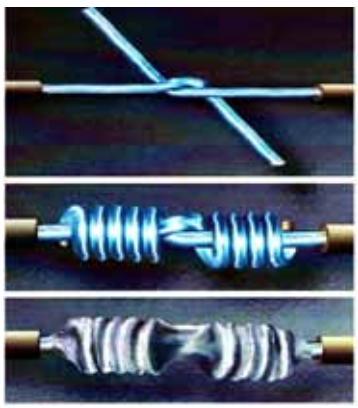
How to Splice Wires to NASA Standards

Developed during the heyday of the telegraph, the Lineman's splice is designed for connections that will be under tension. It is commonly claimed that, properly made, a Lineman's splice is stronger than the wires of which it is composed. In any case, it is a time-proven method, and, coolest of all, one of NASA's "Required Workmanship Standards" for splicing wires.

To wit, in a NASA-approved Lineman's splice:

1. The conductors shall be pre-tinned.
2. There shall be at least 3 turns around each conductor and the wraps shall be tight with no gaps between adjacent turns.
3. The wraps shall not overlap and the ends of the wrap shall be trimmed flush prior to soldering to prevent protruding ends.
4. Conductors shall not overlap the insulation of the other wire. Though the Lineman's splice was originally used without solder, today soldering is common.

NASA insists on it:



1. Solder shall wet all elements of the connection.
2. The solder shall fillet between connection elements over the complete periphery of the connection.

FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. James Edwin Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class. In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by
Amateur Extra class licensees.

"Thus, Mr. Siegell's proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals," the FCC said in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes - Technician, General, and Amateur Extra - in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

"The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills," the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. It specifically rejected suggestions that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to "receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements." The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

The FCC said the two petitions "do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions."

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission's costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists.

"Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said.

"The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes," the FCC said. "Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rulemaking do not warrant further consideration at this time."

New "Amateur Radio Parity Act Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives

Date: Jan 17, 2017 2:17 PM

New "Amateur Radio Parity Act" Bill Introduced in US Houseof RepresentativesH.R. 555 - a new "Amateur Radio Parity Act" bill - has beenintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill's languageis identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which passed inthe House late last summer but failed in the waning days of the USSenate to gain the necessary support. As with H.R. 1301, the newmeasure introduced on January 13 in the 115th Congress was sponsoredby Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), with initial co-sponsorship by Rep.Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Walden nowchairs the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, to which the newbill has been referred. H.R. 555 will get an initial airing in theSubcommittee on Communications and Technology.

HR-555 The Amateur Radio Parity Act Passed the House of Representatives (UPDATE)

Date: Jan 23, 2017 2:55 PM

I just observed, on CSPAN TV, the passage of HR-555, the Amateur RadioParity Act, by a voice vote.

This bill will now be sent to the Senate for their passage, which will result in that bill being sent to theoffice of the President for signing into law

ManyRepresentatives and Senators were convinced by the sheer volume of mail that they received on this bill, to vote in the affirmative.

I amconfident that the Senate will take the same action in a short time. More information is available on arrl.org.

73, Bob W6RGG

A Little Bit of History

The first radio tube, invented by D. McFarlan Moore, in 1898, and held to be the most valuable exhibit of its kind in the United States was shattered a few days ago by a bellboy. Today it lies in useless condition, in the office of Carl W. Mitman, curator of engineering, in the National Museum.

Last week the tube was brought with infinite precautions from New York, by Mr. Moore, who is

This is believed to be the first radio tube, made in 1898 by D. McFarlan Moore of New York. Radio waves emanating from this tube ignited a bomb a city block away and blew up a miniature of the Battleship Maine." Harris & Ewing glass plate

connected with the Edison Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, at Harrison, N.J. Mr. Moore carried his precious tube himself, because he was afraid to entrust the delivery to the mails of parcel post service. The tube was carried in special wrapping, and swathed thickly in cotton.

Mr. Moore registered at the Hotel Raleigh and gave his suitcase to a bellboy. He also temporarily surrendered the tube. As the door to his room was opened, he heard a faint tinkle of glass, as he brushed against it. Upon examination the tube was found broken.

The tube is said to be unique, and the only one if its kind in this country. Parts of it are set with platinum fixtures. It was to be placed on exhibition at the museum. Now, however, its fate is problematical. Whether it will be possible to adjust the delicate mechanism is unknown.

Mr. Moore is well known in engineering and scientific circles. Among his achievements was the construction, in 1904, of a lamp known as the Moore lamp, commercially used in large numbers in the United States.

New salesman...

Idaho kid moves to Florida and goes to a big "everything under one roof" department store looking for a job.

The Manager says, "Do you have any sales experience, kid?"

The kid says "Yeah. I was a vacuum salesman back in Idaho."

Well, the boss wasn't sure, but he liked the kid and figured he'd give him a shot, so he gave him the job.

"You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did."

His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it.

After the store was locked up, the boss came down to the sales floor, and said, "How many customers bought something from you today?"

The kid frowns and looks at the floor and mutters, "One".

The boss says "Just one?!!? Our sales people average sales to 20 to 30 customers a day. That will have to change and soon if you'd like to continue your employment here. We have very strict standards for our sales force here in Florida. One sale a day might have been acceptable in Idaho but you're not on the farm anymore, son."

The kid took his beating, still staring down at his shoes, and the boss felt sorry for chewing him out on his first day.

He asked, semi-sarcastically, "So, how much was your one sale for?"

The kid looked up at his boss and said, "$101,237.65."

The boss, astonished, says $101,237.65?!? What the heck did you sell?"

The kid says, "Well, first, I sold him some new fish hooks.

Then I sold him a new fishing rod to use with his fish hooks.

Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I convinced him he was going to need a boat, so we went over to the boat department and I sold him a twin-engine Chris Craft.

Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition."

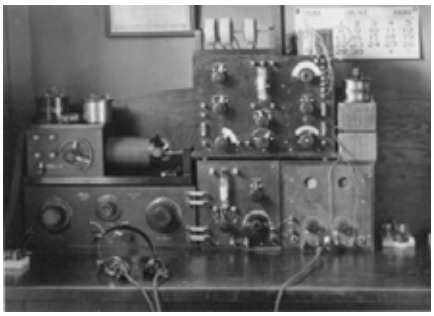
The boss said, "You mean a guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and a truck!?"

The kid said, "No sir, The guy came in here to buy tampons for his wife, and I said, 'Dude, your weekend's shot, you might as well go fishing!"

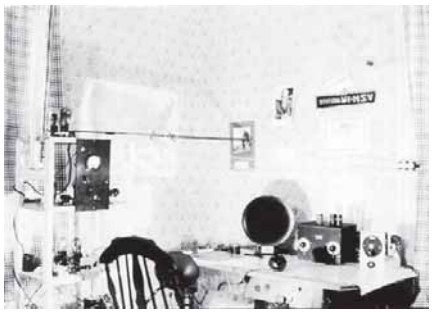
Skip, AF6HC, the Old DX Master has been at it again with plenty to show for his efforts. Below is a very small smattering of hard-won QSL cards.

DX ADVENTURE – BACK TO THE PACIFIC 2016 – LAKEPA, NIUE
Lialagi, Lakepa is a HAM PARADISE !
E6AC confirms QSOs with AF6HC
25/09/2016 00:39 17m 2xCW 599
25/09/2016 00:51 12m 2xCW 599
26/09/2016 03:54 30m 2xCW 599
26/09/2016 03:56 30m 2xCW 599
27/09/2016 06:52 40m 2xCW 599
TNX for the QSO(s)
73 de JA2FJP Ken & JF2MBF Noh

Some Old Time Ham Radio Stations



8WY-1920



W1HSV-1936

J3GNX-1940s

W6BIB-1955-Now KJ6SCC

GB3GY-1960

W8HIC-1970s

Ham Radio Stations went from heavy and sometime dangerous equipment to safer, lighter and more sophisticated electronics over the generations

Congratulations to all the members that participated in the "Merriment on Main" Ceremonies

34th Annual Merriment On Main
Certificate of Appreciation
Awarded to
VacaValley Radio Club
This certificate is presented to you with grateful acknowledgement for your outstanding support and participation at The Reporter's 34th Annual Merriment On Main celebration on Tuesday, November 29, 2016.
Shauna Manina
Shauna Manina, Community Relations/Special Events
Dennis Sheely
Dennis Sheely, VP of Sales & Marketing
THE REPORTER
TheReporter.com

Tom Ansley, KM6BCT; Art Aronsen, WD6BQX; Vincent Bartning, KK6YRA; Jason Fiori, KM6FAK; Barry Fraser, KM6FNA; Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ; Ruff Gunn, K6DME; Brian Hagen, KK6BXP; Powell Helems, KK6YVV; Bob Hewitt, K6HEW; Chris Jones, KD7TQ0; Dean Lamp, WA6NBU; Arthur Miller, KI6UXE; Mark Phillips, KK6ZDC; Cyndi Pilgrim, KK6NGZ; Murray Sobel, KM6APK; Dan Speck, WB6SIU; Bryan Steinberg, KBOA; Mike Vieira, W6MAV; Diane Vieira, K6LAZ; Kim Ware, KI6JNX; Joe Wheeler, KK6UEM.

Tom Christian, VP6TC/VR6TC, SK

Tom Christian, VP6RC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as "the Voice of Pitcairn," died July 7 on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent of Fletcher Christian of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with possible Alzheimer's disease. According to his wife Betty, VP6YL/VR6YL, his health "deteriorated all too quickly," and the last few months were, in her words, "cruel ones to watch such a strong, vibrant man reduced to where he was not really aware of his surroundings and then was unable to walk and swallow food or liquid.

Tom was first licensed in 1957. Over the years, he and Betty kept in routine radio contact with their ham radio friends overseas as well as with two of their daughters who are hams. He often ran just 70 W into a 250 foot wire on 15 meters and was able to work the US easily.

Tom was buried July 8 in the cemetery on Pitcairn. He was a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E), and served for 40 years on the Pitcairn Island Council as the Governor's Representative.

In addition to his wife, survivors include the couple's four daughters, Darilene; Sherilene; Jacqueline, VK2CDC, and Raelene, ZL2RAE.

Thanks to The Daily DX, NN1N, KI5DR and OH2BR

Christian visits the Royal Observatory in Greenwich in 2002 to inspect the watch Fletcher Christian's mutineers had taken to shore from the 'Bounty' in 1789 Tom Pilston

Thanks to Skip - AF6HC

Special Event Station

Contact: Bruce Sperka, AD7MM
bsperka@gmail.com

Special Event Station K7Z will commemorate Zane Grey's birthday on January 28-31, 2017

Payson, Arizona — Sponsored by the Tonto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and the Northern Gila County Historical Society that operates The Rim Country Museum and The Zane Grey Cabin. Members of our amateur radio association will be active from January 28 – 31, 2017 using the call sign K7Z from their own QTHs as well as from the Zane Grey Cabin in Payson, AZ.

Preferred frequencies will be in the General band segments. Like Us? Spot Us!

A special QSL card will be available for the event: **https://www.qrz.com/db/k7z**

QSL INFO

Direct Only – Your Card and SASE, Sorry No eQSL, LOTW or Bureau

Non-USA, Please enclose 2 US Dollars for return **Postage**

Send a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) for a commemorative QSL card to:

Tonto Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
PO Box 765
Payson, AZ 85547

Zane Grey was an author and master of the American western novel. An Ohio born dentist, Pearl Zane Grey spent many years under the Mogollon Rim writing "To The Last Man" and a dozen other Westerns with Arizona settings and characters. His prolific writings popularized the American cowboy as a taciturn, romantic figure.

VVRC Online Renewal

For added security, the online renewal process for the Vaca Valley Radio Club has recently been changed.

In order to renew online you must access the renewal page from the web site home page.
Got to http://w6vvr.net/
Use the "About Us" dropdown menu and select "Membership Application".
This will present you with the application form.
If you are renewing your membership you only need to fill in the name portion of the form. The rest of the form is used for new members. You can, however, use the other fields to make any corrections to your information on file.

Once the form is completed fill in the box at the bottom with the computer-generated characters. This helps keep robots from filling out the form and cluttering up the club's mail box.

When you click on the submit button, you will be taken to the PayPal shopping cart page. This is the page where you can add items to your "shopping cart". When you add an item to the cart, you will be taken to the checkout page. Please consider adding an optional donation to the repeater fund in addition to your dues. This is done by clicking on the "continue shopping" link in the upper right hand corner of the checkout page. Three donation amounts are available. You can add as many of these amounts to the cart as you wish.

Once your "shopping" has been completed you can check out and make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to make a payment. They will accept other forms of payment such as credits cards as well.

If all you are doing is making changes to your information, you do not need to make any payment. Just return to the home page when you get to the shopping cart page.

Bob, K6HEW

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — July 2016 — Dues are payable annually

FCC Name: _____ Call Sign_____	MEMBER Dues --------- $25.00 _____
Name Badge Name:_____	Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Street: _____	Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
City: _____Zip: _____	Repeater donation ---------- _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)	
License Class: _____ ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	Total---------- _____
E-Mail Address_____	Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)	DATE:_____
Name: _____ Call Sign_____	
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	
Name: _____ Call Sign_____	
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	
Name: _____ Call Sign_____	
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143